

McKay Scholarship Intents

Special points of interest:

- The District FTE file that identifies students who were paid a McKay Scholarship for the February payment period has been posted on the NWRDC. These students will need to be reported by districts as McKay students to generate FTE funds.



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Intents for the 2008-09 school year opened on February 2, 2008.

As you may remember from last year, there is only one intent form. The district must enter a matrix for all intents that have been filed pursuant to s. 1002.39(5)(b)2.b., F.S.

Once intent is filed and the student is determined eligible, the parent may choose either the public or private school option. We have removed the question on the intent form related to the parent's interest in public school options. Instead, we will continue to instruct parents to contact the school district directly to request information about public school transfer options.

For the private school option, the parent must file intent by July 3rd and the student must be enrolled in a participating private school by August 2nd in order to receive a first period payment for the

2008-09 school year on September 1st.

Please note that these deadlines **do not apply** to requesting public school options. The deadlines are established in statute and are specifically associated with quarterly scholarship payments. The only restrictions the statute sets on the public school McKay option relates to space and program availability. This applies whether the child attends in the home district or an adjacent district.

2007-08 Intent Expiration

The department will be sending an intent expiration letter to parents that have filed an eligible intent to participate in the McKay Scholarship Program for the **2007-08** school year and have not yet enrolled in a participating private school. Our objective is to inform these parents that the 2007-08 intent is only valid for this school year and if they intend to enroll their student in a participating private school, they must do so prior to the end of the school year. Otherwise, if the parent plans to enroll the student in a participating school for next school year, the parent must file a new intent for the 2008-09 school year before July 3, 2008.

Unfortunately, students that are currently participating in the public school McKay Scholarship option may also receive this notice because the department does not have detailed information on which students chose the public option. We have asked these parents to disregard the notice and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause the school districts.

Parental Notification Requirement

Parent notifications of school choice options related to the McKay Scholarship Program must be distributed to parents of students with disabilities by April 1 of each year and within 10 days of an IEP meeting. The notifications must inform the parent of the availability of the department's toll-free information hotline and Internet website, and must offer the student's parent an opportunity to enroll the student in another public school within the district.

A memorandum with a Notification Verification Form and template letters in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole was recently distributed via the department's paperless communication system. It was also emailed to McKay school district contacts.

Please document the method and number of notifications on the reporting form and fax it back to the department by April 11, 2008.

New Password Requirements for School Choice Website

There are several types of users that have login access to the School Choice website including department staff, school district personnel, parents, and private schools. All of these logins provide access to sensitive student information and it is important to ensure the information is protected. Therefore, the department will be instituting new password requirements for all users beginning in March.

Once the changes are in place, all users (including school districts) will be prompted to update their password when logging into the School Choice website. The new password must be **alphanumeric and at least eight characters in length**. Once the password is changed, users will be prompted to **update the password once every six months**.

If you forget your password, you may request it via the "Forgot Password?" link on the District Login page. By clicking this link and selecting your district, the password will be emailed to the email address on record. Please note that after **three** failed attempts to login, the system will lock the user's account for 10 minutes.

Please contact your Regional Manager if you have any questions about the new password requirements. We greatly appreciate your assistance in ensuring the security of our student data.

Scholarship Programs Director—Chad Aldis



As you may have heard, Chad Aldis is no longer our Scholarship Programs Director. Sadly, we must announce his departure from the Department of Education and from Florida.

Chad recently accepted the position of the Executive Director of [School Choice Ohio](#) and has relocated to Columbus, Ohio. He hopes to continue his efforts to increase the quantity and improve the quality of school choice, only now in Ohio. His contribution to Florida's scholarship programs in the past two and half years has been invaluable and we wish him only the best in all future endeavors.

Arrangements have been made for the continued administration of all aspects of the scholarship programs during this time of transition. Please be assured that we will continue to strive to provide quality customer service.

Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice

Jean Miller
Acting Executive Director

Florida Department of Education
325 W. Gaines Street, Suite 522
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

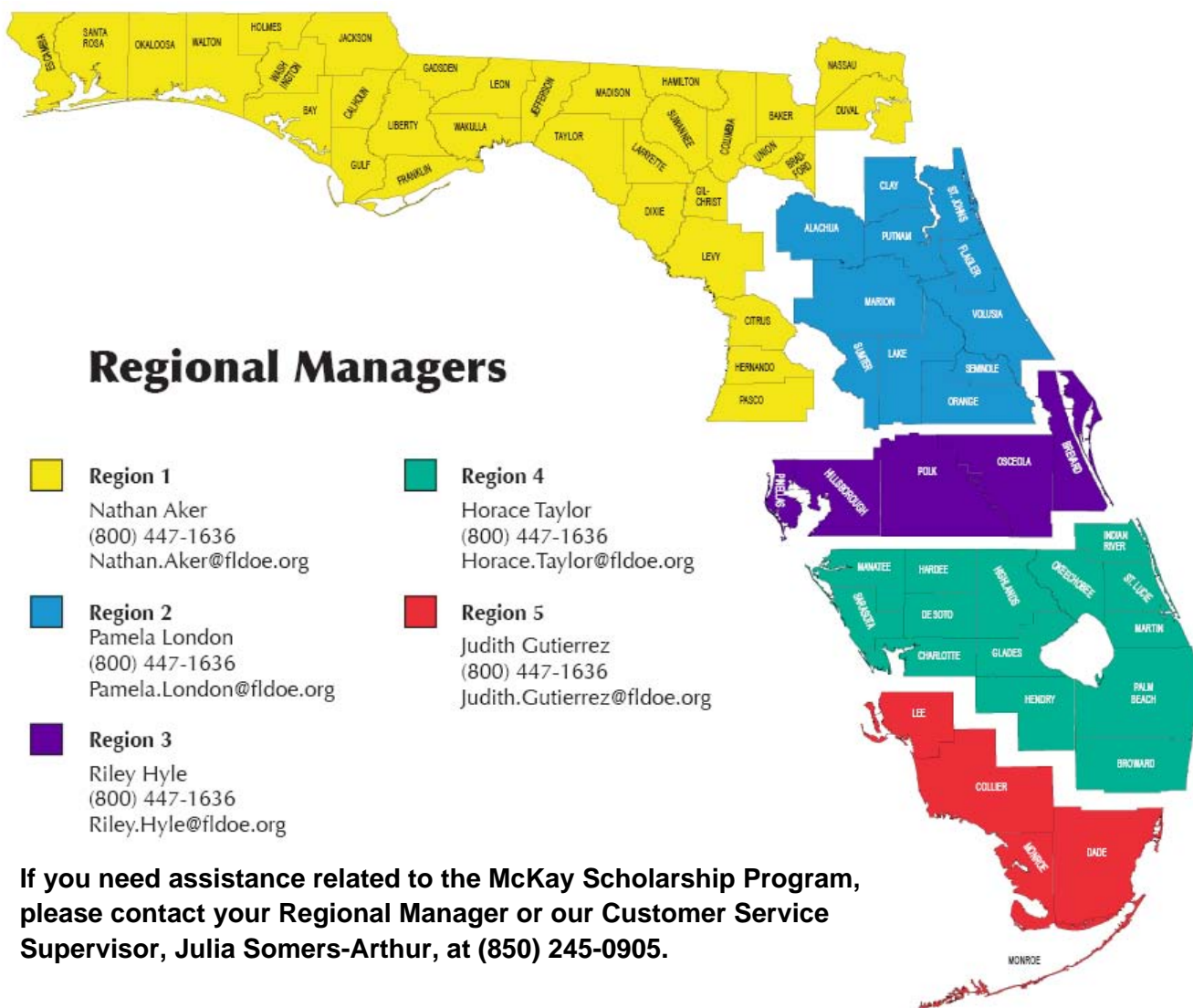
Toll-Free: (800) 447-1636
Fax: (850) 245-0875
Email: schoolchoice@fldoe.org



"Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Education Options"

ON THE WEB AT: WWW.FLORIDASCHOOLCHOICE.ORG

Current and previous newsletters are available in PDF format on the School Choice website when logged in as a district administrator. Click on the "Newsletters" link in the General Information (yellow) section of the screen.



Regional Managers

- **Region 1**
Nathan Aker
(800) 447-1636
Nathan.Aker@fldoe.org
- **Region 2**
Pamela London
(800) 447-1636
Pamela.London@fldoe.org
- **Region 3**
Riley Hyle
(800) 447-1636
Riley.Hyle@fldoe.org

- **Region 4**
Horace Taylor
(800) 447-1636
Horace.Taylor@fldoe.org
- **Region 5**
Judith Gutierrez
(800) 447-1636
Judith.Gutierrez@fldoe.org

If you need assistance related to the McKay Scholarship Program, please contact your Regional Manager or our Customer Service Supervisor, Julia Somers-Arthur, at (850) 245-0905.